

lipoxygenase and urease activities of the protein hydrolysate are not detectable.

Claims 16 through 30 (cancelled)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 30, 2004, in which Claims 1, 20, 21, 22 and 27 through 30 were rejected and Claims 2 through 6, 9, and 11 through 15 were objected to. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the reference cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and, when coupled with the amendments made herein, are believed to render all claims at issue patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claim 1 is amended herein. Claims 20, 21, 22, 27 and 30 are cancelled herein, Claims 7, 8, 10, 16 through 19, 23 through 26, 28, and 29 having been previously cancelled. No claims are added. Accordingly, Claims 1 through 6, 9, and 11 through 15 remain pending.

All the changes are made for clarification and are based on the application and drawings as originally filed. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. SECTION 112, 2nd PARAGRAPH

The Examiner next rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, 1st Paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the phrase "adjusting the pH value of the slurry to a range between about 6 and 7" lacks support within the specification.

The Examiner suggested that since the term "neutralization" is well-known in the art that a dictionary definition term be applied. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's proposal and will recognize the cited definition as the applicable definition of "neutralization." Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 for clarification by deleting the language "adjusting the pH value of the slurry to a range between about 6 and about 7" and have reinserted the language --neutralizing the pH value of the slurry--.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 is now overcome.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. SECTION 102(b)

The Examiner next rejected Claims 20, 21, 22, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Delrue *et al.*

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 20, 21, 22, 27 and 30 herein, thus rendering this rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 are respectfully requested.

OBJECTED-TO CLAIMS AND ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Examiner stated (1) that the method claims were not rejected over the prior art of record because of the amendment of Claim 1 to limit the claim as "consisting of" in the recited steps and (2) that Claims 2 through 6, 9, and 11 through 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowed if Claim 1 was amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 112. Applicants acknowledge this with appreciation.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending Claims 1 through 6, 9, and 11 through 15 as currently presented are in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 248-433-7552 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding *before* issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas T. Moga
Registration No. 34,881
Attorney for Applicants

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC
1901 L Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-457-0160

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